

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /011 R

66663

DRAFTED BY: D/ PW: FASIEVERTS

APPROVED BY: D/ PW: FASIEVERTS

S/ S- O - R. WRIGHT

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R 160103 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUFHGV/ USMISSION GENEVA 5665

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113202

EXDIS

FOL SENT ACTION SAIGON JUNE 12, 1973 FROM SECSTATE WASHDC
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113202

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: CIVILIAN DETAINEES - INVITATION TO CANADIAN
RED CROSS

1. NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF CANADIAN RED CROSS GENERAL
ARTHUR WRINCH TOLD DEPTOFF (SIEVERTS, D/ PW) INFORMALLY
AT AMERICAN RED CROSS CONVENTION LAST WEEK THAT CRC HAS
BEEN INVITED BY GVN TO SERVE UNDER ART. 9 B OF CAPTURED
PERSONS PROTOCOL AS NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY TO VISIT
PLACES WHERE CAPTURED VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS ARE HELD.
INVITATION WAS APPARENTLY EXTENDED TO CANADIAN OFFICIALS
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IN SAIGON.

2. WRINCH EXPRESSED RELUCTANCE TO HAVE HIS SOCIETY PLAY SUCH A ROLE, IN LIGHT OF ABORTIVE EFFORT UNDER ART. 9 A TO VISIT POW' S, AND IN VIEW OF CANADIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ICCS. HOWEVER, HE TOOK POSITION THAT IF THE TWO SIDES IN FACT EXTENDED INVITATION FORMALLY, HIS SOCIETY WOULD HAVE LITTLE CHOICE UNDER RED CROSS TRADITIONS BUT TO ACCEPT. HE MADE CLEAR HE WOULD INSIST THAT INVITATION BE UNAMBIGUOUS AND IN WRITING BEFORE VENTURING AGAIN TO SOUTH VIETNAM OR COMMITTING HIS SOCIETY. WRINCH SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF SIMILAR APPROACH HAD BEEN MADE TO POLISH OR OTHER SECOND NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER INFO EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE ON THIS. WHILE WE CAN UNDERSTAND CRC RELUCTANCE TO BE DRAWN AGAIN INTO SOUTH VIETNAMESE SCENE, IT DOES SEEM TO US THAT THIS OFFERS POSSIBLY USEFUL WAY FOR GVN TO ARRANGE IMPARTIAL INSPECTION OF ITS CIVILIAN PRISONER FACILITIES, AND THEREBY TO RESPOND TO CONTINUING PUBLIC CRITICISM IN US AND ABROAD, OF THESE FACILITIES. IF PRG REFUSES TO COOPERATE IN ARRANGEMENTS UNDER 9 B, WE WOULD THINK THIS FACT SHOULD BE MADE PUBLIC. REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS. RUSH UNQUOTE ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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